

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Magadan Oblast)

REPORT

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SUBJECT Attempted Escape of Forced Laborers in Magadan Oblast

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Information

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1. In spring 1953, a group of about 25 forced laborers in Camp Lazo (N63-13, E152-10) organized for the purpose of escaping and fleeing toward Seymchan (N62-53, E152-26). They were political prisoners who had allied themselves with free workers in Lazo.
2. The leader of the group was Nikolay (Ipu), a one-eyed man, who was an assistant in the planning and production division (proizvodstvennaya i planovaya chast - PPCh) in Camp Lazo. His exact title was roster keeper (naryadchik); he kept the lists of prisoners going to work and sick lists. The two other leaders were the chief of the camp restaurant and the foreman of the brigade which worked in the mechanical shop. Among the other members [redacted] a Polish-Ukrainian called "Zhenka". There was also a Hungarian in the group.
3. The rebels managed to make some hand grenades with discarded dynamite. Normally, only free workers were allowed to handle dynamite; but some of them had been careless, and the rebels managed to obtain some. The plot was discovered, because one of the members of the rebel group tested the hand grenades at the wrong time. Dynamite was exploded in the mine at 0600, 1600, and 2000 hours, daily. When the unusual explosion was heard, the prisoner was seized, questioned, and forced to confess the plot. Since that time, only soldiers have been allowed to handle dynamite in the Lazo Cassiterite Mine.
4. After the plot was discovered, six men, including Nikolay the one-eyed leader, were shot; 17 were sentenced to 25 years at hard labor; and two received sentences of 10 years.

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5. [redacted] the plot was blamed on Colonel Bacharov (fnu), one of the assistants of General Vlassov. Bacharov was a small, stout man with green eyes and red hair, who had been sent to Camp Gulikhari in the Lazo area. He was under special guard; one soldier was always assigned to him. He spent the nights in solitary confinement (izolyator). Bacharov had been condemned under three paragraphs of the Criminal Code: Para. 58-1a, 58-10, and 58-8, as well as under another paragraph referring to "aid given to capitalist nations". He was not allowed to converse with other prisoners. After the revolt was discovered, Bacharov was taken away.

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